

XIV. California State-Specific Structural Engineering Examination - Status

Background:

In October of 2004, the Board began administering the National Structural II examination in addition to the Board's State Specific Structural Engineering Seismic examination. In 2005, the Board began administering the National Structural Engineering examination and the National Land Surveyor examination twice per year, rather than once per year. The Board determined that administering the examinations twice per year would allow structural engineers and land surveyors to become licensed in a more expeditious manner, thus affording consumers with more choices when hiring a structural engineer or land surveyor.

In April of 2009, after thorough review and input from its Structural Engineering Technical Advisory Committee, the Board adopted the use of the newly-developed 16-hour NCEES Structural Engineering examination for licensing structural engineers in California. This examination has replaced the former 8-hour National Structural II examination and the 8-hour State Specific Structural Engineering Seismic examination that were administered by the Board. Administration of this new national examination started effective October 2010.

This new national structural examination has been developed based on the new International Building Code (IBC), which has been adopted by all states including California. The new examination will thoroughly test the candidates' knowledge of the building code requirements relating to structural engineering including seismicity and structural engineering that is unique to a seismically active state such as California. The use of a national examination will facilitate licensure in California of structural engineers who are licensed in other states.

Status:

In order to comply with the requirements as currently stated in Business and Professions Code section 6763.1 (attached) that all structural engineer applicants be tested on their "knowledge of state laws, rules, and regulations, and of seismicity and structural engineering unique to the practice in this state," Board staff is developing timelines for the occupational analysis and the development of the California specific structural exam. The occupational analysis will determine the format, length and content of the examination.

6763.1. An applicant to use the title "structural engineer" shall have successfully passed a written examination that incorporates a national examination for structural engineering by a nationally recognized entity approved by the board, if available, and a supplemental California specific examination. The California specific examination shall test the applicant's knowledge of state laws, rules, and regulations, and of seismicity and structural engineering unique to practice in this state. The board shall use the national examination on or before December 31, 2004.